N3275-2

TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 7, 1989 -- Carloadings* originated on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 2 totaled 354,922, down 0.5 percent from the comparable week of 1988 but 27.4 percent above the preceding holiday week of 1989, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today. The railroads reporting account for approximately 94 percent of all rail carloads.

Carloadings originated were up 3.8 percent in the West but down 3.8 percent in the East, compared with a year ago.

From the comparable 1988 week, grain loadings were up 4,963 cars (17.2 percent). Coal loadings were up 2,315 cars (1.8 percent). Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were down 2,837 cars (12.6 percent), and metallic ores dropped 1,262 cars (5.9 percent).

Cumulative carloadings for the first 48 weeks of 1989 totaled 16,061,384, down 1.2 percent from the comparable period a year ago.

Intermodal traffic on Class I railroads -- which is not included in the carloadings -- totaled 122,804 trailers and/or containers for the week ended December 2, up 4.9 percent from the comparable week of 1988.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 48 weeks of 1989 was 5,507,941 trailers and/or containers, 3.1 percent above the comparable 1988 total.

The AAR also estimated that ton-miles carried on major railroads in the week ended December 2 totaled 20.7 billion, 0.5 percent above the comparable week of 1988. Cumulative volume for the first 48 weeks of 1989 was an estimated 924.5 billion ton-miles, down 0.2 percent from the comparable period of last year.

**Because of changes in reporting, 1989 figures are not comparable to previous years, except for 1988, which has been restated for purposes of comparison with 1989.*

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 2, 1989

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 2, 1989	COMPARISON WITH SAME WEEK OF 1988	CHANGE	COMPARISON WITH PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	33,850	28,887	17.2 %	28,076	20.6 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	2,744	2,906	-5.6	1,819	50.9
Metallic Ores	20,244	21,506	-5.9	18,323	10.5
Coal	131,328	129,013	1.8	105,741	24.2
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	14,135	14,640	-3.4	9,879	43.1
Nonmetallic Minerals	9,810	10,408	-5.7	7,545	30.0
Grain Mill Products	10,528	10,941	-3.8	8,980	17.2
Food & Kindred Products	9,586	9,595	-.1	7,234	32.5
Primary Forest Products	9,250	10,029	-7.8	6,356	45.5
Lumber & Wood Products	6,925	7,094	-2.4	4,788	44.6
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	11,064	11,482	-3.6	9,505	16.4
Chemicals	29,821	29,703	.4	22,178	34.5
Petroleum Products	5,363	5,380	-.3	4,312	24.4
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	10,343	10,755	-3.8	8,142	27.0
Coke	6,149	5,843	5.2	4,744	29.6
Metals & Products	9,646	9,797	-1.5	7,408	30.2
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	19,616	22,453	-12.6	13,112	49.6
Waste & Scrap Materials	8,477	9,087	-6.7	5,756	47.3
All Other Carloads	6,043	7,045	-14.2	4,747	27.3
Total	**354,922**	**356,564**	**-.5 %**	**278,645**	**27.4 %**

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES

TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 2, 1989 1989	1988	CHANGE	CUMULATIVE: 48 WEEKS ENDING DECEMBER 2, 1989 1989	1988	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	**354,922**	**356,564**	**-.5 %**	**16,061,384**	**16,263,858**	**-1.2 %**
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	72,339	73,030	-.9	3,196,776	3,223,935	-.8
Containers	50,465	44,011	14.7	2,311,165	2,120,295	9.0
Total	**122,804**	**117,041**	**4.9**	**5,507,941**	**5,344,230**	**3.1**
Estimated Ton-Miles Class I Railroads (Billions)	**20.7**	**20.6**	**.5 %**	**924.5** r	**926.5** r	**-.2 %**

NOTE: Carloadings are estimated for: Week 48, 1989 - TM.

r Cumulative ton-miles revised to reflect revisions in Week 48, 1988, carloadings.

AARt - 120789